

~~CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REPORTING REGULATIONS~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Central Intelligence Agency regarding the handling of the Espionage Laws. Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 770 and 776. The transmission or disclosure of such information to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-Z-T
BOPRE/CONTINUED CONTROL

COUNTRY UAR

SUBJECT [Intelligence] Activities of the
Al-Nasir Trading Company

INFO. NO. CS-3/449,737

DATE DISTR. 13 September 1960

NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES RD

DATE OF
INFO.

June-July 1960

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE

Headquarters Comment. This report supplements CS-3/427,819 from the same source.

1. In June-July 1960, the profits of the Al-Nasir Trading Company were being transferred (to a special government fund for financing clandestine operations.) The UAR Government was also employing the company for its "illegal" transactions, such as trade with France, on the basis of a commission fee of 10 percent. (An Egyptian security officer) is reported to have said in June that the company had been shipping arms from Suez Canal ports to South (?) Africa for distribution in African countries for use by anti-European insurgents..
2. Lt. Colonel Muhammad Ghannim, the director of the Al-Nasir Trading Company, was reported to have engaged in [intelligence operations] during his previous assignment as manager of the Nile Company in Beirut.
1. Headquarters Comment. Probably identical with the Nile Publicity Agency.

RETURN TO CIA
Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce

5/920

SUBJECT: Al-Nasir Trading Company

REF ID: A 3-27,229

DATE REC'D.: 27 FEBRUARY 1960

NO. PAGES: 1

REFERENCES: RD 73 1339

FJ

A 3-27,229,13,3,6

DATE OF INFO: December 1959

PLACE & DATE ACQ: Israel, Tel Aviv (December 1959)

FIELD REPORT NO.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: [An American (B), from an official of the Israeli Ministry of Defense (F).] 08
Appraisal of Content: 3.Headquarters Comment. In view of the origin of the information, it must be read with some reserve.

1. The Egyptian firm, Al-Nasir Trading Company, either may be collaborating with UAR Intelligence or was established by the UAR Government to finance military intelligence operations not covered by the regular budget. The director-general of the firm, Lt. Colonel Muhammad Ghanim, is an officer in the counterespionage branch of Military Intelligence, draws military pay, and does not appear to touch the profits of the company. 08

2. Lt. Colonel Ghanim is rumored to have said he was instrumental in the organizing of the Beirut uprising for which purpose he used the name of Muhammad al-Masri. He has ministerial status and belongs to the inner circles of UAR President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. (His immediate superior is Ahmad Khafaf.) Ghanim maintains an account in his name at the Banque Genevoise de Commerce et de Credit. He traveled in Western Europe during November 1959; was in Geneva, Switzerland on 1 November; in Paris on 5 November from where he went to Brussels after a few days. 08

3. The Al-Nasir Trading Company is chiefly engaged in the marketing of rice and cotton. Cotton exported by the company, on the basis of government allocations, is seven percent of the total Egyptian export in this field. The firm is represented in Geneva and Paris by the Eastern Company over which it acquired control for the purpose of cotton export. One of its managers is 'Abd-al-'Azim Husayni, who makes occasional business trips to Europe.

1. Headquarters Comment. A report of early January 1960 from another source and area reported that the Al-Nasir Trading Company was reportedly an Egyptian Intelligence cover firm and that its manager, Muhammad Ghanim, had opened an account in the Banque Genevoise de Commerce et de Credit. This report stated that Ghanim had been in Geneva on 6 November 1959, in Paris on 11 November, and in Brussels on 17 November.

S-E-C-R-E-T//KURRY/CONTINUED CONTROL

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	NSA	X	FBI		NSA IX
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	--	--------

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; field distribution by "#".)

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

7/9/60